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Tuttle, L. R.

Twelve years constant

Jacksonville: Courier

1885

# Bibliographic Record Target

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# TWELVE YEARS

## CONSTANT RESIDENCE

— IN —

# FLORIDA.

WITH SOME RELEVANT,
RAMBLING REMARKS REGARDING
THE STATE AS IT NOW APPEARS TO A

## PIONEER OF '74.

BY

L. R. TUTTLE,

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
PRESS OF THE COURIER-JOURNAL JOB PRINTING COMPANY.
1885.

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# FLORIDA.

THE writer of the following sketch came to Florida in February, 1874, and located on the east bank of the St. John's river. For nine successive years he was without a dollar, only as it was drawn from Florida sand, making in the meantime (and a very mean and hard time some of it was, too) a living for himself and family, and two orange groves. (Note: The latter sentence should be taken literally, for successful orange groves *must* live.) Right here the reader's indulgence is craved in the seemingly too frequent use of the personal pronoun I. Desiring to impress the reader that the statements herein set forth are practical truths, coming, for the most part, under the writer's immediate observation, and are a part and parcel of his pioneering in orange culture and truck farming, we will seek avoidance of glittering generalities, "nickel-plated adjectives," "beautiful balmy-breezy," "perfect-paradise," "true-home-of-the-orange," "only-garden-spot," "below-the-frost-line," "Italy-of-America" nonsense, and state only that which he



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honestly believes; feeling that the results sought for in the issuance of this little pamphlet can be obtained by honorable and legitimate methods, and that the merits and resources of Florida, viewed in the noon-day light of truth, are all sufficient for her continued prosperity and success.

As intimated, I am not gratutiously broadcasting this document from a purely philanthropic standpoint; the primary object being the sale of good orange and agricultural land in tracts of sufficient size to profitably cultivate, and at prices within the reach of all intending settlers and winter-home seekers. A less selfish object than the preceding is a desire to see our State peopled with an intelligent and contented class. If, in my efforts to point out the errors and mistakes so common, yet so serious, to most new-comers, thereby saving to any time, money, and corresponding annoyance, I shall feel that it was not *all* selfishness that prompted the act.

Thus, having by way of preface acquainted you with the object, intent, and purpose of this publication, I will proceed, clearly and concisely as I am able, to put Florida before you as the State appears to me and those of her abler citizens, to whom I am indebted for much in the way of quotations from writings coincident with time-proven views.

## FLORIDA'S CLIMATE

Is too well known to require any bolstering or booming; and while a twelve-years' summer and winter residence has shown me some very disagreeable weather every year, yet the balance was of the yard-wide, pleasant pattern, with summer nights of sufficient coolness to induce refreshing slumbers. This seems to be a good place to introduce the mosquito question. (The mosquito introduces himself.) Yes, "we've got 'em," though they are more numerous in some places than others; it's generally "the others" when you are looking for land. I have traveled quite extensively through South, Central, and East Florida, and have never been in a locality where their absence was an entirety *at all* times. I can say the same of a dozen other States visited prior to my residence here. High pine lands, remote from swamps and water-courses, are the most exempt from their hum-ble ditty. They are, however, a very easily manufactured



insect, and a supply is forthcoming at any time by the exposure of rain or well-water to the direct rays of Florida's genial sun. Seriously, with the well-known means of defense, the question is of small moment.

No, I've not forgotten; I am coming to them, and will tell you how you can prevent the "fleas" from coming to you. During the erection of all buildings add a strong salt solution to a good whitewash, apply two coats of the same to foundation blocks, sills, and all floor timbers, pursuing the same course on corner posts and studding to a height of several feet; the higher the better, for you are putting on the cleanest, healthiest, and cheapest of wood preservatives. Before the floors are laid, rake out from underneath all shavings and trash, sprinkle liberally with lime, fence out the hogs, and you are free from the "wicked flea," until introduced by your own or your neighbor's dog. When that happens, take some insect powder and the dog to the woods; apply the powder to the canine—not the woods—and the fleas will leave the dog, and the dog can leave the fleas with the leaves of the trees. This will prove a re-lief to the dog and yourself. Repeat the operation when necessary. The white-washing of out-buildings, fences, and fence-posts, before and after setting, will repay you a hundred fold, particularly in the preservation of sappy wood that is exposed to alternate heat and moisture. Inside fences, made of sap laths, treated this way have done service for nine years, while similar ones not white-washed rotted inside of three years' time.

Occasionally, during the summer months, we experience a few hours of calm or only a perceptible breeze. It is then that the little black gnats "do most love to congregate" and insist upon close and intimate relationship with one's nose, eyes, and ears. Moisten a small piece of sponge or rag with crude carbolic acid, fasten the same to bonnet or hat, and the little pests are soon out of sight and sound. This same acid is a handy thing to have on a Florida farm. Of course, it should be handled with caution and kept beyond the reach of children. Mix a little with the whitewash intended for the interior of the chicken-house. Sprinkle a weak solution of the acid under the nests of laying and sitting hens, on the roosts, and floor, and save the fowls and yourself a mite-y sight of trouble. For soreheads—

anti-political—or warts on chickens, a half-dozen drops stirred in an ounce of hot lard, and when cold applied to the affected parts, will produce a complete cure of the disease. It is a good ingredient in scale-insect washes for the orange or other fruit-trees. I have used the acid with best results when wrestling with an aching tooth—the thankless thing! As it is quite probable these details are devoid of interest to the *intended* settler, I will try to steer clear of them now, and after you have been here a year, you can inclose a stamp for reply when writing me for recipes. The truth is, it is these *little* annoyances that make up the aggregate of all that can be said against our State.

## THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA

Commenced March 27, 1512, on Easter Sunday—Catholic Church feast of flowers' day—hence, the name, Florida. J. Ponce de Leon, a roving real estate agent from Spain, filed the first pre-emption papers, and, failing to find a "soda fountain full of youths," and no mention made of his arrival, in the "Personal" column of *The Daily Seminole Scalper*, returned, disgusted, to his native land, vowing that the whole country was not worth a cake of Castilian soap, and the only thing that *could* be raised in Florida was hair, and the Indians had a monopoly of that. Something similar to this is even now indulged in by sad-eyed, bilious explorers, who are ever seeking the unattainable, and would not know what to do with it when found. From the year 1517, or until Spain "quit claimed" her right and title to our "Uncle Samuel" under date of July, 1821, Florida was amused by "Spanish walks," "French shrugs," "Indian w-hoops," and "John Bull" "worm vermifuge." From 1835 to 1842, occurred the bloody and memorable "Seminole Indian Wars," during which period, nineteen battles and three massacres made the tourist troops consider Florida anything but a healthy country. At last, March 3, 1845, the State secured a back-seat in the United States dress-circle, but passed out—before the show was over—on a secession check, January 10, 1861. Becoming tired of the outdoor fireworks, she again made application at the box-office, and was re-admitted July 11, 1868, where she now is, and will ever remain, while the unerring hand of destiny is beckoning her to a FRONT SEAT among the brightest and best of her



sister States, and "she'll gi thar, Eli." The first Territorial Governor was Andrew Jackson, the last, John Branch. First State Governor, W. D. Moseley; present Governor, E. A. Perry. Florida's numerous picnics, previous to 1868, prevented any great success in orange culture, and if you want a native's anathemas, ask him "what the blank he has been doing all these years, and why he has so few *old* bearing orange trees?"

## FLORIDA LAND AND SOIL

Is as spotted as a camel-leopard. I know of four immediately-joining orange groves, on high hummock—trees all planted at the same time—eight years since—culture and application of fertilizer nearly equal, and the size of the trees and their appearance to-day are best described by the following proportions: [redacted]. Good, bad, and indifferent land, both pine and hummock, are to be found in all of the orange-growing counties. So far as my individual experience goes, my preference is in favor of high and heavily-timbered pine lands. While it requires longer time to grow orange trees, without aid, on pine land, as against rich hummock results, the pure resinous atmosphere, better water, easier clearing and after culture, less expensive recuperation of soil when impoverished, superior keeping qualities of fruit, and cheapness in price of pine lands—these are some of my reasons for their advocation. "I rise to remark," for the benefit of any "smart Aleck" who, without having done one day's work in a Florida field, may question the above, that I am the owner of a young, thrifty, bearing grove, on *Black Jack Ridge* pine land, and one on high hummock, planted, cultivated, and brought to their present status, by my own muscle; and for years my nearest store and post-office was four, and the nearest railroad twelve, miles distant. Travelers by steam conveyance have but a faint idea of the broken surface of our State. As a rule, railroads seek the easiest grades and least expensive construction routes, though some lines, now in construction, and others in contemplation, will, when completed, unfold much that has heretofore been unknown to the many. Ranges of hills extend from north to south Florida, reaching, in some sections, an altitude of three hundred feet. The man of small means, and smaller experience, needs but a SMALL FARM in Florida. Ten

acres is equivalent to thirty in other States. Why? Because, you CAN raise three or more crops in one year, from the same piece of land, provided, you do not take off more than you put back, thus exhausting the soil, particularly of humus, the great and needful basis of all light soils. The possibilities of small farms, in this land of sun and showers, manipulated by intellect and industry, are almost beyond estimate. Good orange lands will produce most all other paying Florida crops. Hummock and high pine lands are orange lands. The cost of thoroughly clearing the first is about $100.00 per acre, the latter, from $20.00 to $40.00, and the pines will furnish fence material. Mulatto colored and steel gray are both admirable soils for all members of the citrus family. Lasting prolific highlands have clay subsoil at varying depths from the surface. I do not believe that

ORANGE GROWING IN FLORIDA

Will ever prove unremunerative to the man that can successfully manage other business. Some men will not like nor are they adapted to this work, though the same energy and attention, resulting in success elsewhere, will secure like results in this case. Neither do I believe that there will ever be over-production of Florida oranges; there is but one Florida to grow them in, and twenty-five of the thirty-nine counties only are orange counties, and they contain but seven million acres adapted to the citrus culture. After deducting space for bananas, pineapples, cocoanuts, cane, corn, cotton, tobacco, potatoes, vegetables, pasturage, timber, dwelling lots, towns, cities, roads, etc., etc., you will notice this cuts the orange, lemon, and lime acreage down to comparatively small figures, and it is this *very fact* that is causing such a rush for this class of lands and consequent rapid increase in values. They will never be any cheaper.

Every decade adds to our population ten million orange-eaters, every new mile of transportation lines introduces the Florida orange to a new market. The first Florida orange eaten calls for others. Your physician will prescribe them, and, *should* there ever be an over-production, the surplus can be turned into the most delicious of healthy wines, at a net profit of one hundred dollars per acre. Foreign countries will, in a few years, consume annually as many boxes of Florida oranges as we are



to-day producing. My direct locality has been sending to England increasing shipments the past three years, at profitable returns. There is but one danger—"gluts." This can and will be avoided by systematic distribution. Paying returns, for all good, sound fruit, properly packed, is a certainty, and the grower or shipper expecting satisfactory returns, for unsatisfactory fruit, will get left by the "returning board." Admitting that oranges

are an important factor in Florida's "make-up," still the grand total contains many other profitable and prolific resources. The "freezing down" of every orange tree in the State would give Florida a very "black eye," and it would take three years' time, and considerable beef-steak, for said eye to regain its wonted brilliancy. The blow, however, would only check her speed; other interests would continue and enlarge. The invalid tourist, sportsman, get away-from-blizzard people, would keep coming;

increased acreage in cotton, corn, cane, trucking, and berry-growing, would be one result; our lumber interests continue, better development of fisheries, heavier runs made on oyster banks, the new orange wood—from the roots—would require careful attention resulting in better-shaped, if not thriftier, trees, and all those that were bearing, when "frozen down," would commence yielding the third year after, and the world *so* hungry then, for Florida oranges, that its inhabitants would "pay their money, and take our choice." These and new industries would keep our steamboats and railroad trains in motion, and round-trip tickets to and from Florida would still be purchased over the "Old Reliable" "Ellen N." Leaving the orange subject, and with naught but the best wishes for *all* sections of Florida, I beg the reader's indulgence and attention to a few incontrovertible facts, respecting one of the best orange-producing counties.

OLD MARION,

Within whose boundary lines I have seen more continuous stretches of strong, fertile acres, than elsewhere in Florida. The soil and location are unexcelled, the rich hummocks and productive high pine lands merit its title, *i. e.*, "FLORIDA'S BLUE-GRASS REGION." The old settlers of Marion county are so accustomed to their first choice—good cane and cotton lands—that they sometimes designate as poor, soil that would be a fertilizer for some *really* poor land. I have a standing offer of $100.00 per acre for a few acres—in another county—that is actually poorer than any land I have yet seen in Marion county. Being surrounded by orange groves and truck gardens causes this quoted—apparently-high valuation. THE LARGEST BEARING ORANGE GROVE IN THE WORLD, also the best-paying lemon groves in the State, are in Marion county. Taking Ocala, for a center, and, with a radius of twenty-five miles in length, describe a circle, and it will include an area, in which is grown two-thirds of the State's citrus production. Two trunk lines of railroads traverse the county, while a third very important one is in process of construction. In Marion, the wonderful Ocklawaha river rises from the depth of the famous Silver Spring. Over in the western portion of the county, is the—to me—greatest of all Florida curiosities, We-ki-wa Spring (clear water), and it is clear water



"sure enough." I was "clear gone" on it when I saw it the first time. Looking down into its translucent depths, the feeling was one of sublimity and awe, similar to the feeling experienced when one is gazing up into the blue vaulted dome of Mammoth Cave's "Star Chamber." The completion of the standard-gauge Silver Spring, Ocala & Gulf railway brings this natural beauty within fifty hours of Chicago, seven hours of Jacksonville, and one hour of

OCALA,

Marion county's live, wide-awake county site. Ocala is the center of a central orange growing county. Her geographical location, supported by a rich productive region, will, in a few years, make her the "Indianapolis of Florida." This is my candid opinion of Ocala's future, and not a very recent idea, either. If you are conversant with new Florida, a glance over a good State map will convince you—if not prejudiced—that there is some foundation for the prediction. Ocala is also a center of commercial, social, and political interest, has two newspapers of undoubted merit and ability, the *Banner* and the *Free Press*. The *Banner's* editor is the present city mayor. Large mercantile houses, a prosperous bank, hotel accommodations for three thousand people, and everything that goes to make a live town, Ocala can lay claim to, and it's only five years since she was an insignificant, isolated hamlet, without a railroad. Now she has three, soon there will be five, and more in prospect. Taking a train on the new, splendid Silver Spring, Ocala & Gulf railway, ride out twenty miles, to We-ki-wa or Blue Spring. (The water looked green to me, but I consoled myself by thinking it was color-blindness, instead of a personal reflection.)

Your spring curiosity appeased, obtain a conveyance from Captain Hood, owner of the local saw-mill and clever proprietor of the Springs Hotel, drive over a pleasant, shady road, four miles north-west, halt your team on the summit of some one of the many hills and tell me if you are not pleased with the view of the land, the timber, the soil, and all surroundings. No underbrush, palmetto, or scrub obstructs the view through the tall pines, and you have ridden twenty odd miles through continuous high rolling pine forests. You have not seen exceeding four acres of swamp, no low, wet land, no ugly bayheads or marshes,

nothing within miles of you to create malaria, and, to the best of my belief and knowledge, there is no healthier location in the orange belt. I don't see how there can be; and it was here, where you are now halted, and before the railroad was graded, that I came, and was so pleased that I purchased two thousand acres of this land, for my associates and self. These friends had confidence in my judgment of Florida land and location, and if my readers who have followed me thus far have none, don't read any farther, for the balance is in reference to the plans, prices, and proposed mode of disposal of said lands, which are owned and for sale by

THE MARION COUNTY

# Florida Land & Improvement Co.

(LIMITED.)

Incorporated under the Laws of Florida.

CAPITAL STOCK. - - - - $33,000

**OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STOCKHOLDERS.**

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| C. P. ATMORE, Vice-President | Louisville, Ky. |
| J. B. BROWNING, Secretary and Treasurer | Louisville, Ky. |
| W. N. CULP | Louisville, Ky. |
| L. R. TUTTLE, General Agent | Jacksonville, Florida. |

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| C. B. COMPTON | Louisville, Ky. |
| J. H. MILLIKEN | Louisville, Ky. |
| J. H. DORSEY | Louisville, Ky. |
| W. B. KNISKERN | Chicago, Illinois. |

**REFERENCES.—OUR THOUSANDS OF ACQUAINTANCES.**

☞ Be sure that all communications bear one of the above names, as there are other companies, with title something similar to ours.



You have read that the land was high, dry, healthy, pine land. Its exact location is in south-west Marion county, township fifteen, range eighteen east, comprising all of section twenty, and adjoining portions of sections twenty-one, twenty-eight, and twenty-nine, the western part of the latter being in close proximity to Lake Bonivar. The nearest railroad station is four miles; to Ocala, twenty-one miles; to Gainesville, thirty-five miles; to F. R. & N. railway, nineteen miles; to the Withlacoochee river, five miles; to Jacksonville, one hundred miles; to the Gulf of Mexico, fifteen miles. These are actual distances by survey.

We confidently expect, in the near future, a railroad close to or through our land. Location, surroundings, and rapid settlement assure it, and other signs, plainly perceptible to railroad men, necessitate it. The map shows the plan as platted for

A SETTLEMENT

And a central reservation of three hundred acres for a town site, when the settlement needs it, and we promise to be as liberal then in donations of lands for church, school, and park purposes, as we now would, were we offering inducements to sell ONE-TENTH ACRE "city lots."

TWO ONE-HUNDRED-FEET WIDE AVENUES

Are laid out from north to south, and from east to west, running through the entire tract. The smallest lots contain five acres, and will front on Louisville and Nashville Avenues, and on other avenues as per map.

Next in order are TEN-ACRE lots, and then FIFTEEN-ACRE lots; EVERY LOT FRONTS on an AVENUE OR STREET, and there are seventy-two CORNER lots. Thus securing to every owner a RIGHT OF WAY and all its attendant advantages. Two hundred acres are thus already given to purchasers. The first buyers will have CHOICE OF LOCATION. Not more than two adjoining lots will be sold to ANY ONE PERSON. OUR TITLES were direct from the UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT to our General Agent as Trustee, and our issue of WARRANTY DEEDS will be IRONCLAD and perfect in EVERY PARTICULAR. PRESENT PRICES: FIVE-ACRE LOTS, $75.00; TEN-ACRE LOTS, $140.00; FIFTEEN-ACRE LOTS, $195.00.

We are offering this land at such prices that we can not afford to keep a debit and credit account; therefore, our TERMS ARE CASH. Deeds will be forwarded promptly to purchasers. Remit by express, post-office orders, or through bank, to J. B. Browning, Secretary and Treasurer, Louisville, Ky., or to L. R. Tuttle, General Agent, Jacksonville, Florida.

You are invited to come and see these lands and location, before purchasing, though the present low prices will undoubtedly increase rapidly. To those who know the writer, and desire to invest, I will say this is a safe investment, and will prove a profitable one.

I have been, from boyhood, an ardent admirer of, and a believer in, the POWER OF THE PRESS, when wielded by men of sound and conscientious ideas. At one time I thought George D. Prentice, and others of his ilk, would be able to still the tempest that, in 1861, broke over our native land. Newspapers are the true index of a nation's, or a community's, decay or progress, and I point with pride to our Florida papers. Jacksonville leads with the daily *Times-Union*, and the Florida daily evening *Herald*, Florida weekly *Dispatch*, *Tropical Paradise*, and others. Every community has its local papers, and all give gratifying evidence of their own and the State's marvelous progress. This will be evidenced by a perusal of the following extracts from leading papers in Florida and elsewhere.

## THE NEW SOUTH.

The Charleston *News and Courier* says: "The significance of the great change which has taken place in the industrial life of the South since the war, and more particularly within the last ten years, is scarcely comprehended, perhaps, by the Southern people themselves. In many respects, the change is like that from an unsettled country to a settled one, from an undeveloped country to a developed one.

"The coal and iron ores of Virginia and Alabama, the marble quarries of Georgia, the gold mines of North Carolina and South Carolina, are not discoveries of to-day. Their existence has been known for generations, and yet their stores of inestimable wealth are only now being brought to light and utilized for the first time—years after the exhaustion of some of the mines in the wilds of California and the great north-western territories. Birmingham, Ala., already the rival of Pittsburg, is an infant in days compared with Yankton and Omaha, and a score of other cities that might be named, which sprang into being along the buffalo trails in a country that was still a wilderness peopled with savages when the land upon which Birmingham is built was a worn-out cotton field.

"The oldest city in the United States, St. Augustine, Florida, was almost inaccessible a few years ago, and the forests, of the vast and rich Floral State in which it is situated, are only now falling before the axes of the pioneers immigrating thither, as into a new land, from Kansas and Minnesota and Michigan, as well as from the older States of the Union. Cotton factories are springing up all over the South to manufacture the staple which has been grown around their sites for nearly a century. Lumber is being shipped by the carload from some of the original thirteen States to supply mills in Ohio and Indiana—States whose names and boundaries were unknown long after the revolution ended.

"The work which is now in progress in the South, it is true, is such work as was completed in the North a generation ago, but the significant fact is that it is in progress. Whatever the causes that have kept the South back in the industrial race, the obstacles have been removed, and the race has begun. It will not stop.

"The West has had its day, the day of rapid, almost unnatural, growth and development, and it will now be left to follow a like order of progress and development with the eastern and middle States, while the South goes to the front by reason of its greater opportunities as compared with those of other parts of the Union. There are more attractions for labor and capital in the South to-day than in any other part of the world, and both labor and capital are quick to recognize the field where they may be employed to best advantage. They are already pouring into our territory in small and widely-separated streams, it may be, but the currents once turned this way will never be stayed or turned aside. The tide will grow

larger and stronger every year, and the children of to-day will see the flood ere they reach man's estate.

"The South is growing, and its prosperity is growing with even more rapid pace. Its natural resources can not longer lie idle in the presence of the demand for them, and its broad acres can not remain unoccupied in view of the population which is pressing in on all sides in search of homes. What the West has been to the East for a quarter of a century, the South is to the North, East, and West alike, and having every advantage of soil and climate that lavish nature can bestow upon a country, it is destined to outstrip both its older and younger competitors, and to win the first place in sight of them, and in spite of them all."

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## FACTS ABOUT FLORIDA.

The physical aspect and position of the State of Florida is unique and remarkable, from the fact that not another large body of land in the world is so favorably situated for climatic advantages as this State. It stretches out like an arm into a vast ocean, lapped by the silver waves of the Gulf of Mexico on one side, and on the other by the long, rolling billows of the Atlantic—wide wastes of salt water that cool the heated breezes of the summer and moderate to vernal softness the rough winds of winter. Here is a sanitarium for the world. The famous Italian peninsula can not equal it, and the world can show nothing to surpass it in perfect adaptability to the relief and cure of those whose lives are wretched and uncertain in a less favored region.

Not alone to the invalid does this climate offer an asylum. Its soil is mostly poor and sandy, but to the hand of labor it offers the rich harvest of success. With work, with intelligent cultivation, this soil, as poor as it looks, will yield more substantial reward, acre for acre, than the richest lands in all the North or West. It is the incomparable climate, producing early and special vegetation, with repeated annual cropping, that gives such large returns. Here, no storms of snow and sleet, icy walks and frosty fields, alternate drifts of snow and bogs of mud, annoy and render sick and uncomfortable the inhabitants.

The eye of the visitor, when he leaves the valley of the St. John's, is greeted with rolling lands, covered with tall, resinous pines, the balmy fragrance of whose wind-tossed boughs, mingling with the salt-laden breezes from the sea or gulf, gives to the soft air that charm and health-renewing property which it possesses. It is upon such soil as this that life is not only endurable, but positively delightful.

It has been said of Florida that, while other States have been settled by poor men, Florida has been settled by the rich. This, while not positively true, is so to a great extent. Orange groves are made only in two ways—either by hard, unremitting labor, guided by intelligent observa-



tion, or with money. It might be said that it requires both, but instances are not wanting where the poor man, not afraid of work, has, with hardly any money, brought into bearing most valuable groves, and rich men, depending on irresponsible parties, have failed of success. Florida, within the last five or six years, has made most wonderful strides in wealth and population.

The trying period through which pioneers are obliged to pass has, in a measure, gone, although in South Florida there are still plenty of places where the comforts of life are wanting. The boom which has struck this State has been so great that careful people could not believe its continuance possible, but the boom is not an ephemeral one. There is a substantiality about it which mocks at the fears of the timid and outstrips the wildest dreamings of the enthusiast. The material prosperity of the State has kept pace with the widespread interest manifested in it all over the world. Railroads are either laid or are preparing to be laid over almost every portion of the State—iron bands that bind the ripened sheaf of barbarism for the harvest of civilization. Wherever the beautiful lakes that sit like burnished mirrors in their emerald frames of pine offer sufficient water-surface for navigation, steamboats are plying. Canals are being dug through almost impassable swamps that will ultimately give to the plow the richest sugar lands in the world. Towns are being platted, buildings erected, and the busy hum of progress resounds through the State.

Who can foresee the future? The croakers will tell you all this must soon have an ending—everything is inflated, and the bubble will soon burst. Don't you believe it. The State has just begun to move forward, and, reader, if Florida had nothing but its incomparable climate, its possession would be a bonanza to any country.—*South Apopka Times.*

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## TIMELY TOPICS.

Various circumstances have contributed to the gradual extension of what is known as the Florida season. When the advantages of the State as a winter home and sanitarium were first mooted, people who went there were admonished to do so when winter began in downright earnest, which, in this latitude, is usually about the beginning of December, and they remained till the beginning of April. By degrees the pleasures of life in Florida became more apparent, while accommodations of all kinds were multiplied and improved in response to the demand. At the present moment, therefore, visitors do not wait until driven by sheer necessity, but the first snowflake or cutting blast is welcomed as an excuse for a resort to the Land of Flowers. At the same time, while many persons enjoy the trip, and protract their stay by extending it at both ends, so to speak,

the multitude of business interests that have been created by investments in groves and winter homes have given substantial inducements to many to make an early run down to Florida, to look after matters that are beginning to compete with their home interests as objects of attention. The season commencing promises an unprecedented volume of travel into the State, made up of pleasure-seekers, those who are looking after business interests, and those seeking homes. The persistent advertisement which the State is enjoying (which includes the vast amount of conversational, written, and published discussion, as well as the direct advertisements of real estate agents and others) is only beginning to tell, and the effect of the momentum at last imparted, one may say, to the world at large, must be prodigious. Added to this fact is the opening up of all portions of the State by vast drainage works, and the extension of railroads, which are constantly enlarging it as a field of settlement. When the great increase of the local population and interests is considered, and the necessary growth of inter-state travel and trade on that account, and to these facts are added the centering of public attention to the State as an objective point for health and pleasure-seekers, investors, and settlers, it becomes no wonder that every Florida season should show an immense gain over its predecessor.—*The South.*

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## THE SOUTH FOR POULTRY-RAISING.

If a Northern poulterer should visit the Southern States, and see what opportunities there are for the poultry business, it would certainly surprise him.

Take from this latitude up into middle Georgia and there is enough suitable land to raise great quantities of poultry, and it will not be long before some of the poultry men, who make a specialty of market fowls, will see it and take advantage of the opportunity.

Any one traveling through Florida, Georgia, Texas, and some parts of Louisiana, will be greatly surprised at the vast amount of the best kind of lands for poultry, lying idle, uncultivated, and in some instances, uninhabited. Many old cotton-raisers are offering their fields for sale. Why do they not go into the poultry business, when they have every advantage in their favor? The climate is the best in the world for that business, the soil is capable of raising all the food necessary, and the land is, in most places, undulating and self-drained. It looks as if everything in nature was in their favor. Insects are, perhaps, a little worse than at the North, but so little that the natural advantages more than counterbalance them.

A man could come down here and buy cleared land very cheap, put up his house and fences, and in a very short time make a good bit of money. The market is very desirable to furnish eggs and poultry for, because of



the good prices. Eggs, average price, year around, twenty-five cents. Live poultry, fifteen cents per pound. And another advantage is, that if one wishes to ship fowls into the Northern market, he could put them in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago before they were out of their snow banks up there. Right now is the time we commence hatching here; just at the time Northern poultrymen are stopping their incubators. We can put chickens into New York, alive, weighing one and one-half to two pounds, in any month during the winter, just at the time the broilers bring the best prices.

This is an industry that is in embryo, waiting for some industrious man to come along and wake it up, and in so doing he will have a fat pocketbook.

In back numbers of the *Agriculturist* we have given our plans of houses used in this climate, and one can readily see how cheaply they can be built, as they were not built in theory, for we are using them ourselves.—*DeLand Agriculturist.*

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## THE COMING FRUIT.

From present indications there seems to be a lemon boom imminent. This variety of the citrus can be raised in great perfection and abundance in certain portions of this county, and the fact that it is a crop that will eventually eclipse the orange in point of commercial value is just now beginning to dawn on the minds of certain long-headed fruit-growers and others of this section. The conditions required for the raising of lemons are simply natural protection; and if this is supplied, either in the shape of large areas of water surface or of dense surrounding of forests, there is no doubt but that the culture of lemons can be made a grand success. The writer has recently been shown some very large and fine specimens of the Sicily lemon raised on Lake Weir. This is the lemon required in commerce, and contains a larger percentage of citric acid than any other variety, hence its value for manufacturing and consequent superiority over the orange, which may be classed as a luxury, while the lemon is truly a necessity, indispensable alike in the sick room, the laboratory, and the kitchen. Its varied other uses outside of these contribute to swell the demand for this useful fruit far beyond the supply. In the propagation of the lemon a most important advantage over the orange is the comparatively short time required to bring a grove into bearing. This is an especially attractive feature, which is going to work out a bonanza for those who strike now; and I think it may safely be assumed that many persons now at a distance from Florida will emigrate at the eleventh hour and realize fortunes from lemon groves before some of the orange groves now planted can come into profitable bearing. There are desirable lake-encircled land, high hummock hills, and other suitably-protected localities, still

accessible in Marion county, where lemons can be raised and where the transportation facilities are sufficient for all purposes. These lands will doubtless soon be gobbled up. At present, the region around Lake Kerr, in the eastern, LAKE BONIVAR, SIXTEEN LAKE, and others, in the western extremities, and spots on the Ocklawaha river, in the center of the county, afford favorable localities for lemon-growing, and where land can still be purchased at reasonable rates. The fall and winter seasons are the proper time for transplanting, and when not excessively injured by frosts or cold winds, will make an early start in the spring and put on an astonishing growth in one season.—*Ocala Banner.*

## THE LEMON BOOM.

Colonel A. L. Eichelberger was the pioneer in the orange and lemon business at Lake Panasoffkee, but he has been recently re-enforced by Messrs. C. M. Brown, James A. Harris, L. M. Thayer, John Maxfield, and others whose names are familiar in fruit circles. The high prices obtained for lemons is, no doubt, the incentive that is attracting these gentlemen to this favored spot. They have formed a joint stock company, and are now engaged in setting out a grove of one hundred and thirty acres, probably the largest lemon grove in the world. Persons, if there be any, who are losing faith in the orange and lemon industry of this State, should be inspired by the example of these gentlemen, who are more largely interested in the production of these fruits than any other of the same number that can be named, and every day they are broadening their acres. But it is not their faith alone that makes them so enthusiastic. It is the big prices that they are obtaining that is spreading the boom.—*Ocala Banner.*

## FLORIDA ORANGES IN EUROPE.

It is expected that next winter there will be special arrangements made for importing oranges from Florida into this country. Last winter an experimental shipment was sent by a New York firm to Glasgow. The oranges found a ready sale there and in Edinburgh at good prices compared with Mediterranean oranges, but not enough, it is said, to pay the shippers. The highest priced orange that comes into our market sells at retail from two shillings to two shillings and six pence (fifty to seventy cents) per dozen, according to size and quality. An average Florida orange is far superior to the best St. Michaels, but it could not be retailed in this country for less than three shillings or three shillings and six pence (seventy to ninety cents) per dozen. In April last, they were being sold



wholesale, in New York, for five dollars a box, averaging one hundred and forty to one hundred and fifty oranges, equivalent to one shilling and six pence per dozen. Fifty per cent. would have to be allowed for transport across the Atlantic, making the price to the importer in Glasgow or Liverpool at least two shillings and six pence or three shillings per dozen. Early in the season—say in January—the same orange might be bought in New York at three dollars per box, or one shilling per dozen, and landed in Glasgow or Liverpool at a cost not exceeding two shillings per dozen. It would be a blessing to fruit consumers if Florida oranges could be imported to retail at about the same rate as St. Michaels.—*Edinburgh (Scotland) Courant.*

## PEACHES IN FLORIDA.

My peach crop has just closed for 1885, and, O! how I miss them. I have had ripe peaches ever since last May, but, alas! they are all gone for this season. I shall now fall back on Mrs. H.'s canned and dried peaches, so I am not as bad off as I thought I was. I have some trees that will soon bear, which have six varieties on one tree, ripening from May until October.

My peach crop has paid well, the prices ranging from one dollar and a half to eight dollars a bushel. My hybrid peach—a cross between the Honey and native peach—paid the best of all. I have four trees of this variety that have been set out three years, and one of them is larger than the others. The fruit from this tree brought, after paying the expense of shipping, fourteen dollars. The next largest brought ten dollars. They are certainly the finest flavored peach I ever ate, coming in just after the Honey peach. I do not know how they came to cross, but suppose from the pollen from the blossoms of some native trees close by. I have some trees one year old from the seed of this cross; also have six hundred trees budded in August last, which are dormant now. I shall set out a good many of these trees in my orchard this winter. I prefer the dormant budded peach tree or roots to the year or two-year-old trees, for planting, as they will make a better tree, and bear just as soon, for this reason: When a tree, say five or six feet high, is transplanted, it will take nearly the whole year for the tree to take root enough so that the tree can grow any, while the root that has the dormant bud has nothing to support but its roots, which soon starts the bud to growing, and will grow and catch the year-old tree the first year. Besides, you can prune low down, and leave the limbs so as to have every tree alike in the orchard. I told a friend of mine this last week, and he could not believe it. He thought it was impossible for a bud to grow and catch a year-old tree in one year. I gave him my reasons for its growing so fast. He being at my house, I

took him to my orchard where I had set out some of both kinds last winter. I asked him to point out the trees which were one year old when planted out. "Well," says he, "I suppose these are they, as they are the largest." He made a bad mistake, as he pointed to my dormant-budded trees. Some of these trees have grown seven or eight feet this year from the bud. Heretofore, I have tried to get the largest trees I could buy, but it is a mistake with the peach tree.

Now, Mr. Editor, as I never stop at one good thing, but always want something better (you know the human family are never satisfied, it matters not what they have, so I am like the rest of them, I have to always look around for something else to do), I am now trying to get a cross between the Peen-to and Honey peach. If I can succeed in doing this, you can just mark down the old man for a few thousand of those *yellow boys* certain.—*W. P. H., in the Florida Agriculturist.*

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## A GOOD SUGGESTION.

When it is said that this is a good poor man's country, it by no means is to be understood that it is not a good rich man's country. The fact is, Florida has many resources that can be turned to profitable account. While we endorse all the good that reasonably can be said of Florida, we think that, as a general thing, settlers make a mistake in confining their operations to one thing. It certainly is precarious, in farming or fruit-growing, to turn the attention to the cultivation of an orange grove and nothing else. A live, practical man will not depend upon this alone. He will plant every variety of fruits; in addition to this, he will raise corn, sugar, rice, potatoes, and all kinds of vegetables, and a patch of cotton, if he wishes it, not forgetting the necessary amount of stock to make his place and home folks comfortable. We know some men who have a good variety of vegetables all the year around. Corn can be planted every month until frost. It looks too much like a speculation, this thing of getting out orange groves and nothing else. There is no solidity to a country that runs on that principle.—*Palatka Herald.*

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## WINE FROM FLORIDA ORANGES.

Colonel Frank A. Burr, writing in the Philadelphia *Times*, says: "In talking with a Market-street merchant, I was somewhat surprised to find that a magnificent American wine is being made in large quantities from the juice of sweet oranges of Florida, surpassing in purity any of the European wines. 'It is the best tonic, medicinal or otherwise,' said my friend, 'that can be taken into the human system. It is nourishing, of agreeable flavor, and what is more, a perfectly pure native wine.' Everybody knows what recuperative power there is in luscious, ripe, sweet Florida oranges, and as no part of the fruit is used in the manufacture of the wine but the pulp of perfectly ripe oranges, and none of the wine bottled from the casks until it is at least three years old, it is easy to see that wine made from Florida oranges will, at no distant day, outrival any of the imported still wines. In taste it is marvelously palatable, and I am told that it is the cleanest wine in the market to-day, there being but 8.64 per cent. of absolute alcohol and slightly over five per cent. of sugar. Florida, filled with orange presses, will outrival the famous vineyards of France and Italy in time, for the manufacturers of this splendid wine are pushing ahead with new and improved machinery, are setting out countless orchards of the precious fruit, and investing thousands of dollars in the enterprise which they are satisfied will soon become one of the greatest industries of the country. The supply is now in nowise equal to the demand."



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THE orange growers of Florida are highly gratified at finding that within comparatively few years their product has come to be rated as first quality, and this feeling is intensified by the fact that many disheartening perplexities were surmounted in bringing to its present excellence this delicious fruit, which America's famous pomologist, A. J. Downing, once said might be well regarded as the "golden apple of Hesperides."—*New York World.*

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## FLORIDA FACTS.

The State of Florida presents to the capitalist and the laborer, the merchant and the sportsman, the professional man and the mechanic, the farmer and the artist, the manufacturer and the hotel-keeper, alike, unequaled opportunities for investment, employment, enjoyment, and trade.

It lies nearer the equator than any other State of the Union; yet it is cooler in summer than Montana, Oregon, Colorado, or California, because of the influence of the sea.

It has the most equitable climate in the world.

It is a health resort for thousands.

It has 34,713,600 acres of solid land, and 4,440 square miles of water.

It has 4,200 miles of seacoast.

It has nineteen large rivers, with a total inland navigation of more than one thousand miles.

It has fifteen hundred miles of railway.

It produces a million bushels of oranges per annum.

It produces more than one-half of the Sea Island cotton crop of the United States.

It raises the finest oranges, pineapples, and cocoanuts in the world.

It exports annually immense quantities of early garden vegetables.

It possesses millions of acres of timber trees.

Its naval stores are exhaustless.

It has extensive herds of cattle, and millions of acres of pasturage.

It is the best country on the globe for raising sugar cane and rice.

It produces two hundred different varieties of woods—more than any other State.

Its fisheries are extensive, and their possibilities are without limit.

It exports more than half a million dollars' worth of sponges per annum.

It abounds in natural fertilizers.

Its mineral springs are fountains of healing.

Its population has increased seventy per cent. within the last fourteen years. It has doubled its assessable property; it has doubled its common schools and the attendance within the past four years.

The State debt is only half a million dollars.—*Exchange.*

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## FRUIT ALL THE YEAR AROUND.

The Daytona *Messenger* says: "There is not a day in the whole three hundred and sixty-five—not even leap year—that the people of Florida do not have fruit of some kind. Commencing with January, we have strawberries then and until late in June; Japan plums from February; mulberries are ripe in April, and last until August. Pineapples ripen in June, and last nearly all the year. We have guavas from July until late the next spring. Of the various berries—dewberries, blackberries, and huckleberries—almost any quantity. Peaches from May 1st until July; melons from June until late in the fall. Oranges—the best of the kind—from October until the next June, with lemons and limes, Le Conte pears, persimmons, pomegranates, grape fruit, grapes, shaddocks, and a number of other fruits."

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IN Florida, the most extraordinary improvements have been made in new crops. The Florida fruits and early vegetables are now an important element of the State's wealth. Truck farming is becoming more general each year. Truck farmers, in most cases, own the land they cultivate. As early as February 1st, tomatoes, green peas, cucumbers, and other vegetables are forwarded to the Northern markets. They bring, at this early season of the year, remunerative prices, and find a ready sale. The culture of strawberries and other small fruits is rapidly increasing, and proves profitable. The cultivation of fruits and vegetables is done almost exclusively on a cash basis, and the farmers of the State are generally free from debt; some exceptions to this being found among the cultivators of cotton. The cultivation of oranges, lemons, and other tropical fruits continues to increase annually, and this industry will soon become one of the most important in the State. The value of the orange business alone, in 1880, amounted to $1,000,000, with an employed capital of more than $10,000,000, and the industry has steadily increased since.—*New Orleans Times-Democrat.*



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NEVER, probably, has a business season opened so auspiciously for the South. From every quarter come reports of unprecedented crops, of prosperous farmers paying off their debts, and of merchants laying in heavy stocks in anticipation of an active winter's trade. The outlook for Florida is particularly encouraging. Her cotton yield averages higher than for any other State, her orange crop will bring more money than ever before, and the tide of tourist travel promises to rise during the winter to a much higher mark than has ever before been reached. Let us gird up our loins to work as a people to whom the future looks rosy.

Florida marches steadily forward in improvements. The investment in new enterprises, during the last nine months, is $1,237,000. The development of farms and farming lands has also been very great. The outlook for next year is most favorable.

When the question of how and where to market the orange crop is once satisfactorily solved, the future of our State will be secure. There will be no dropping back in the price of orange lands. The golden fruit will be as much a staple product as is the wheat and corn of the Northwest, or the cotton and cane of the South. There are millions of mouths watering for it, and the only question is how to get it to them systematically, on time, and in prime order.—*Times-Union.*

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## MALARIA.

There is malaria in Florida, as in Pennsylvania and elsewhere (my child has an attack now in Millersville), but this is mainly in low hummock lands. I was in places where the people had a saffron hue and were lank and languid, and there the principal article of merchandise was quinine. In some places that I could name I wouldn't live for the whole State of Florida, with New Jersey thrown in. But the pine lands are as

healthful as any country can be. Malaria is very rare, and many diseases, such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, etc., are almost unknown.

In conclusion, there are many other points that I meant to notice, such as the water supply, the manufacture of ice, the raising of poultry, cattle, etc., the wonderful system of lakes with their periodical rise and fall, the mysterious "sink holes" that everywhere abound, etc., etc.; but to discuss these would extend my article beyond reasonable limits. Can one live in Florida? Yes, as pleasantly as anywhere—so my Florida friends say. All the year around? Yes, even in summer. It is fashionable to go North in summer, but it is not necessary. I know this from actual experience. Can a person make a living in Florida? Yes, in many ways—in raising oranges or vegetables, in any of the mechanical pursuits, in trade, in law or medicine, or teaching or preaching—in almost any of the ways of making a living elsewhere. I saw many a fine opening for business with small capital—in the stationery business, in mill-work, in the trades, etc. In fact, an energetic, industrious man can do well anywhere; a lazy, worthless person will do no good anywhere—not even in Florida.

J. WILLIS WESTLAKE.

MILLERSVILLE, PA., August 31, 1885.

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## CENTRAL FLORIDA—SOIL.

Land in Central Florida is the sole basis of the present and future wealth of the great mass of the people. Out of the soil is to be grown nearly every commodity the people will have for trade and commerce.

This home production will constitute almost the entire transportation out of the State. Its value will always rank high, sure, and permanent, because no other part of the United States can produce our fruits and vegetables at a time of the year when they command the highest market prices.

Our labor and capital encounter no competition in any of the small grains, for we produce none. Neither can, nor do, we enter the sharply-contested race of manufacturing.

Our soil, location, and climate consolidate our labor and capital, and give us a monopoly in our productions and commanding prices and certain income.

More than all, our Central Florida productions of fruits and vegetables are as certain as the yearly revolution of the earth. As sure as we plant, a harvest comes to us.

These are the self-evident reasons why our orange and vegetable lands in this central part of the State will always command good prices, and remain a sure and permanent basis of wealth.

Our soil is precisely what it ought to be in this latitude. If the muck



soil of Illinois or the other States were substituted here, with our daily rains from May to October, we would be deluged in impassable mud, no crops could be raised, none of our Florida fruits could be produced, and the State would be an invalid hospital, and a cemetery filled with dead people's bones.

Our sandy soil is the only soil that will produce the family of citrus fruits. That soil drinks up the sixty inches of our summer rainfall. Every foot of that soil swallows the rain the instant it reaches it.

That rainfall in summer is timely in the wise direction of nature. It prevents drouth, cools the air, and invigorates the growth of the orange and vegetation regularly as noonday comes.

It is the certainty and regularity of our rains during the growing seasons of our various productions, so happily in harmony with our soil, that insure reward to labor and capital.

This is also a sure guarantee of a permanent and increasing value to our Central Florida lands, as population increases and improvements develop. This is plainly to be seen as no idle, visionary speculation.

You will more clearly observe by these facts why our Central Florida productions will always be ready for use and market at the very best seasons of the year when they will command the highest prices.

Our limited territory, and the rapid increase of demand for our orange, lemon, and lime productions, will insure us abundant reward. As most people who locate here enter at once upon orange or vegetable culture, they purchase from five to twenty acres. As the land is thus divided into small tracts, this region of the State will soon become an extended settlement of cottages among the groves and lakes.

Nature has nowhere on this earth adorned herself with more inviting charms for the comfort, health, and pleasure of man, than upon this high, central tableland among the lakes.—*J. F. Brown, in the Semi-Tropical.*

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## THE LAND OF FLOWERS—BLUE SPRINGS BEAUTIFULLY DESCRIBED BY AN ABLE CORRESPONDENT.

[Mascotte, in Williamsport Bulletin and Gazette.]

The traveler through the "new South" in search of health, pleasure, or information, on leaving the railroad at Ocala, and after viewing the enterprise and luxuriant orange groves of that fast-becoming railroad center of Florida, can find no more profitable way of obtaining an insight of the wonders of nature, so long known only to the few, than to procure a conveyance for a pleasant twenty-one mile drive south through a continuous pine forest to the We-ki-wa, Marion county, known as the "Blue Springs." A charming place, which, owing to its isolation, has been but little appreciated, even by the scattered settlers, who are too intent im-

proving their homesteads to bother with, to them, romantic ideas, and were it not for the fact of stray newspaper correspondents prying about seeking pastures new that their fellowmen may enjoy, the grandeur of the semi-tropics of Florida would yet be unknown. This, and the building of a railroad from the Silver Springs, via Ocala, has begun the opening to the public of opportunities little expected.

The "Blue Springs" derives its name from the sky-blue tints of the water at the "head" of the most fascinating stream it has been my lot to gaze upon. While the settlers call it the Blue Springs the Seminole Indians know it as the We-ki-wa (clear water). Why the white man should attempt to change so musical and appropriate a name, and banish thereby the legends connected with the historical resort of the noted Indian Chief, Billy Bowlegs, and his warriors, except for the above reason, is difficult to understand. That the delicate blue tints reflected on the surface caused the passing traveler to so name it is not surprising, but had he lingered, like your correspondent, for several weeks, enchanted with the pleasures found in rowing or drifting leisurely in and out of its nook and lagoon, fanned by delicate winds, enjoying the fragrance of tropical growths, at times forcing his boat amid the friendly, outstretched limbs of a giant cypress, seeking shelter from one of the copious rains that almost daily cool the midday air and moisten vegetation, he would at once note that the "blue" was a decided transparent *green*, studded with myriads of pearls as each drop of pelting rain sank several inches below the surface to mingle with the uncontaminated swift current. Stand upon the brink of the river and look down into the colorless water, rendering the silver sands and the drab rocky formation of the bottom, with the patches of tall, gently-waving grasses resembling wheat, coral plants, and ferns, and the herbaceous growths at depths from six to forty feet as plain to view as if in a miniature aquarium. Thus, as the heaviest rains fail to affect the clearness of the water, to the Seminole Indian belongs the appropriateness of the name, We-ki-wa (war).—*Ocala Free Press.*

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THE South is to-day the most prosperous and contented portion of the country. Its crops are large and fine, its industries are advancing, its natural resources are being developed, and its people are busy and hopeful.—*Boston Herald.*

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## NO STARVATION HERE.

Mr. Hieronymus Bonnycastle has opened a hotel at Tight-Up and a very nice house he keeps; it is, indeed, a model "Florida inn," and so home-like. I was invited by the host to dine there the other day and the



viands, I do declare, were really superb. There were gopher soup and alligator tenderloins fried and stewed, and broiled steak of the same with guava sauce, fricassed salamander, coonti salad, cat-fish hash, raccoon ragout, cow pea potpourri, cabbage palm salmagundi, etc.; for dessert, banana pie, sweet potato pone, persimmon pudding with saw palmetto berry jelly, etc., etc. Try the Tight-Up house and be happy.—*Ocala Banner.*

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IT is claimed, by those who ought to know, that vegetable raising in Florida has crippled, to a considerable extent, the prosperity of those engaged in the same pursuit in New Jersey and other States. In the course of a short time, Florida will be the basis of supplies for the purchase of vegetables. We are promised some interesting facts and figures touching this subject, and we trust to be able, in a few days, to assist our people to some extent, in securing information upon a subject of so much interest to our citizens.—*Gainesville Daily News.*

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Thanking the papers for the aid furnished me by the foregoing shearing of their respective columns, I beg to remind my readers that the Marion County Florida Land and Improvement Company is NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

# ADDENDA.

To all well-wishers of Florida—as an entirety—it is a matter of regret that so much sectional jealousy is displayed by citizens of one locality as against the advantages or disadvantages of other sections. Men of apparently broad and liberal views respecting most any other subject seem to be infected with a belief that *theirs* is the only particular spot wherein life can be endured, or a residence be made profitable. I can only account for the illusion by charitably surmising that these local enthusiasts have never been in the best portions of other communities, and are so well pleased with their own that for the life of them they can not see how "Dame Nature" could have had any but "refuse material" after she had builded *their* specific paradise. An expressed and contented admiration of one's own locality is not only laudable, but speaks volumes of praise for the whole State, *when* it is not narrow-gauged—either from ignorance or selfish interests—into phillippics abusive of other sections.

These remarks were suggested by noting the regular fall and winter opening of statements, printed and verbal, citing the desirability of this, and the utter worthlessness of that, section, and my readers will find that it is a safe rule to not put *too* much credence in statements that claim for any *one* locality *all* of Florida's advantages, to the utter exclusion of others. Years of residence quite often materially change first impressions and opinions, as witness the following editorial, from the pen of Mr. F. E. Harris, editor of the Ocala *Banner*, in his paper of November 20, 1885:

"Our 'old settlers' have pinned their faith to the hummock lands, and, as a rule, regard pine lands in general as worthless. The writer has been pretty thoroughly inoculated in this opinion; when he sees fine orange groves growing upon pine lands, and ne places these lands selling readily at $100 per acre and he opens his eyes to a different state of facts and con- at there must be some virtue in pine lands after all. He



will cite a case in point: Some years ago, with a party of friends, he started to enter a homestead at Lake Weir, but was dissuaded from doing so by one of the most estimable of the 'old settlers,' who was deeply interested in his welfare. He urged that the lands were worthless, and the writer would throw away the best years of his life. The homestead that he would have entered ld for $20,000, and $40,000 now would be no object of the owner. Lands all around Lake Weir, passed over by the 'old settlers' as worthless, like the 'stone the builders rejected,' are now the 'chief stone of the corner,' so to speak. These lands are readily selling for $100 per acre and upward, while the old settlers, with their thousands of acres of hummock lands, find it difficult to sell an acre at any price."

The foregoing is cited not in disparagement of hummock lands, but as evidence that first impressions are subject to modification and change, and that, as I said before, there is good, bad, and indifferent land, both pine and hummock, in all the orange-growing counties, as my readers upon investigation will find. And now, in bidding you adieu, I repeat, come and see for yourself. "Central," "off," "pioneer."

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